

A NOTICE TO THE FIRE SERVICE

Voluntary Recall of Ranger Leather Structural Firefighting Footwear - produced from 1/1/99 through 10/30/99

Due to a potential safety concern, Total Fire Group is implementing a voluntary recall of Ranger leather boot models # 3042, 3044, and 3045 with a manufacturing date (printed on the inside label) from 1/1/99 through 10/30/99. These boots were independently certified at the time of sale. However, follow up testing has revealed a potential for leakage under extreme conditions that we find unacceptable. Such leakage may result in water, chemical or viral penetration of the boot.

We emphasize that very little leakage has been experienced with products in the field. However, part of the security of the Ranger brands is knowing that we will never compromise on matters of firefighter safety. Although this voluntary recall presents a very difficult challenge for us, we feel it is the right decision to make. We are confident that our customers will appreciate our efforts to monitor the ongoing quality of our product and our commitment to their safety.

Recalled boots will be replaced at no charge with first quality NFPA 1971 replacement leather boots.

We have created a RECALL DESK (available at 1-800-688-6148), managed by Dee Jenkins (ext. 226) and Nancy Casillas (ext. 223) to assist customers affected by this recall. All of our TFG Marketing staff will also work closely with Dee and Nancy to assist you during this recall process and to address any questions you might have.

To obtain replacement boots, customers are asked to cut out the label that contains the model/style number and dates of manufacture from both boots and return the labels to us at Total Fire Group. A seam ripper, available at most sewing supply counters, or a pocket knife makes this task simple and quick. The cut out labels should be returned with a "Request for Recalled Product Replacement Form". If not attached here please contact the Recall Desk at 1-800-688-6148 for a copy.

BEFORE cutting the label out, be sure to verify that the production date of the boots is between 1/1/99 and 10/30/99 and that the word "REPLACEMENT" IS NOT STAMPED on the boot label. If your date of manufacture is illegible, please contact our Recall Desk for assistance at 1-800-688-6148.

Boots manufactured outside this time frame are NOT part of this recall.

Boots with labels stamped "REPLACEMENT" have already been constructed to address this potential leakage concern, so boots stamped "REPLACEMENT" should not be returned and will not be replaced.

We are devoting all available resources to the production of replacement boots. However, due to the scope of the recall, it may take several months to ship replacement product for all boot sizes returned from the field. If you do not have acceptable boots to use for firefighting in the interim, please contact our Recall Desk to discuss provisional solutions (again, you can reach us at 1-800-688-6148).

When you receive the replacement leather boots, we ask that you ship the recalled product (at our expense and per the instructions included with the replacement product) to Dayton, OH for destruction. It is important that all boots subject to the recall be removed from the field. Please note you will be billed for the cost of replacement boots if recalled product is not returned after you receive replacement product.

Besides checking member issued product, any FD inventory should also be checked to see whether you have any of these boots in stock. If so, you can make arrangements directly with our Recall Desk to return such boots and obtain no charge replacement product. Due to the safety concern described above, please do NOT issue any of these boots from your FD stock.

Your help in disseminating notice of this recall would be deeply appreciated. We want to reach every user

possible and arrange no charge product replacement. Please feel free to copy this notice and distribute it as widely as possible within the fire service.

We apologize for any inconvenience imposed on our valued customers due to this recall, however we trust that our action to address this potential safety concern will inspire your confidence in our commitment to safety. Again, if you have any questions, please contact our Recall Desk 1-800-688-6148 and ask for Dee ext. 226 or Nancy ext 223.

No Other Brand or Model Of Total Fire Group Product Is Affected By This Recall.